

# I am the Bread of Life

(Part Two)

8<sup>th</sup> of August 2021

## Introduction:

Last week Edward preached a sermon on the preceding verses of John Chapter six. Edward introduced the I am saying of Jesus, I am the Bread of life: Thank you to everyone who express words of encouragement for Edward last week. He preached very well and honoured the set reading for the day. The text this morning continues on Jesus' teaching regarding the Jesus being Bread of life. Edwards highlighted the priority that a follower of Christ has in relations to Jesus' claim: this morning text reveals from who is the Bread of Life, Jesus, and how he is the Bread of life:

## Let us pray:

Heavenly Father may the words of my mouth and the meditations of all our hearts be pleasing in your sight O LORD, our Rock, our Redeemer. Amen.

It would be good if you have your Bibles open at home: John chapter 6, verses forty-one to fifty-one.

What comes to mind when you hear the I am saying from Jesus, I am the Bread of life? The original hearers would have been transported by the Exodus. The LORD God heard their cry in the wilderness and gave them mana to eat. Jesus acknowledges this fact in his teaching this morning verse 49:

**Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.**

The Bread from heaven, The Exiles were given manna daily. It was their Bread for every day. They were instructed to collect the manna every day for six days and use it for the sustenance. On the sixth day they collected enough for the sabbath as well. Then the cycle would recommence.

Returning to today's reading: we start with the people complaining – they knew Jesus how could he be the one from heaven?

**Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?"**

When Jesus responded to their claim, a good translation would be: - stop your murmuring among yourselves: Have you ever experienced someone murmuring – quietly throwing seeds of discontent and doubt. This is exactly what these original hearers were doing. It was a temptation of doubting the words of Jesus. "How can this be?" were there words.

Jesus then gives us more insights to the love of God. He also reveals how, evangelism is not just a human activity: but must originate and sustain through God: Verse 44 we read:

**No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day.**

Both then and now, people respond to the call of God upon their lives: The text say, drawn by the Father: It is true good news is explained, yet is God who calls and draws people to himself. This is important lesson that all Christians accept and then allow to shape their prayers – praying that God will be pleased to continue to draw people to himself, in and through His people:

You would have noticed that great promise by the one who is the Bread of Life: **I will raise that person up on the last day.**

This promise is as real today as when Jesus first spoke those words. Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

We will now jump to verse 51

**I am the living Bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this Bread will live forever; and the Bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”**

What does that mean? I know some people may desire quickly to focus of the sacrament of the Eucharist. As important as that is, Jesus is not instituting sacrament in these verses.

**Bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.**

This text actually refers to the Cross of Christ, his sacrificial death. Leon Morris wrote:

‘To give his flesh’ ... it is a strong word that would attract attention on the historical fact that Christ did give himself as an atoning sacrifice. When Jesus instituted Holy Communion he uses the word Body, which can be found in 1 Corinthians 10 & 11.

Returning to the text:

**I am the living Bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this Bread will live forever; and the Bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”**

Those who respond to the call of God and follow him; are assured of salvation. Salvation is through the forgiveness of sin, through the Cross of Christ. We are reconciled through the atoning work of the Cross. Simple put, Jesus gave his flesh, which is the Bread of life, not to satisfy a temporary hunger, but rather to transform those who ‘eat his teaching’ into the Children of God.

The Pharisees and other leaders at this time were confused by what Jesus meant about being the Bread of life:

**<sup>48</sup> I am the Bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup> This is the Bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.**

I believe the text here highlights, eat of it – singular – not continuous – hence one off coming into a right relationship with God, through acknowledgement of who Jesus is:

Verse 40

**This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.**

Edward last week brought out the importance of priorities – leaving the open question what priorities we have in this world as followers of Christ.

Today we have seen that God the Father draws people to him, and we have our part of proclaiming who Jesus is. He is the Bread of life: he can satisfy those seeking something beyond themselves. The satisfaction he gives will not be fleeting, but rather for a lifetime, for eternity.

The Christian Church the responsibility of proclaiming who Jesus is and restating what Jesus has done. We need not reinvent the good news of Jesus to make us more acceptable to society. We should not fall into the trap of the revisionist who seek to remove from the word of God what they no longer want:

The Church is called to be faithful in the proclamation of good news, the Gospel which Jesus has revealed himself through the Word of God. There are two more verses which will clarify this point:

**John 6:68**

**Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.**

This will be further examined next week, Yet the connection between Jesus being the Bread of life, and Jesus having the words of eternal life are clear as crystal. The Apostle Peter simple statement reminds us all of the truth – Jesus is the Bread of Life – it is shown as he has given his flesh for our salvation of the Cross.

We can return to another claim of Jesus:

John 14:6

**Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

To bring this sermon all together I turn to some of the final words of John in this Gospel unashamedly expressing again what is eternal life:

**And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.** 17:3

To God be glory for ever! Amen.

Resources:

The New International Commentary on the New Testament:

The Gospel according to John by Leon Morris.

Tyndale New Testament Commentaries: John by Colin G. Kruse.